

## **CLAIMS**

We Claim:

Claim 1 - Equine hoof-ware, comprising in combination:

a sole having a base circumscribed by a peripheral wall having an upwardly and inwardly extending forward most end, an upwardly and outwardly extending rearward most end, and a pair of spaced apart upwardly extending sidewalls interposed between said forward most end and said rearward most end of said peripheral wall for defining a receiving area;

a mid-sole received within said receiving area and circumscribed by said peripheral wall;

a removable insert;

an interlocking means integrally formed with said mid-sole and with said removable insert and comprised of at least one complementary protrusion and indentation pair mating of said removable insert and said mid-sole for receiving and interlocking said two together such that said removable insert can be inserted and then removed and replaced with a different removable insert for treating different equine hoof related ailments;

a front upper connected to said sole and circumscribing said forward most end and said pair of sidewalls of said sole for defining an opening for receiving an equine hoof into said front upper and onto said mid-sole and sole;

said front upper extending upwardly from said sole and mid-sole at an angle and terminating into an upper edge which angles downwardly from said forward most end to said rearward most end of said sole such that said front upper tapers from said forward most end to

said rearward most end of said sole for substantially covering a forward region and side regions of the equine hoof received therein;

a contoured back upper comprised of a lower section operatively coupled to said rearward most end of said sole, an upwardly extending bulb section integrally formed with said lower section and shaped to receive an equine bulb of a heel, and a pair of extensions integrally formed with said upwardly extending bulb section for wrapping around said front upper;

means for coupling said pair of extensions to said front upper such that when said equine hoof is received into said front upper and onto said mid-sole and sole and when said pair of extensions are coupled to said front upper the equine hoof is essentially surrounded and secured within the Equine hoof-ware.

Claim 2 - The equine hoof-ware of claim 1 wherein said interlocking means is comprised of three triangularly spaced complementary protrusions and indentions pairs disposed on said removable insert and said mid-sole for receiving and interlocking said two together such that said removable insert can be inserted and then removed and replaced with a different removable insert for treating different equine hoof related ailments.

Claim 3 - The equine hoof-ware of claim 2 wherein said interlocking means is further comprised a rectangularly shaped complementary protrusion and indentation pair disposed at a back end on said removable insert and said mid-sole for receiving and interlocking said two together such that said removable insert can be inserted and then removed and replaced with a different removable insert for treating different equine hoof related ailments.

Claim 4 - The equine hoof-ware of claim 3 wherein said interlocking means is comprised of a triangularly shaped complementary protrusion and indentation disposed proximate said back ends of said removable insert and said mid-sole at a location surmounting said rectangularly shaped complementary protrusion and indentation pair for receiving and interlocking said two together such that said removable insert can be inserted and then removed and replaced with a different removable insert for treating different equine hoof related ailments.

Claim 5 - The equine hoof-ware of claim 1 wherein said front upper is comprised of a front section and side sections which upwardly extend from said sole and mid-sole at said angle and terminate into said upper edge which angles downwardly from said forward most end to said rearward most end of said sole such that said side sections taper from said forward most end to said rearward most end of said sole for substantially covering a forward region and side regions of the equine hoof received therein.

Claim 6 - The equine hoof-ware of claim 5 further including at least one stretch insert integrally formed with at least one of said side sections of said front upper for stretching and accommodating hoof size variations.

Claim 7 - Equine hoof-ware, comprising in combination:

a sole having a base extending from a forward most end to a rearward most end of said sole;

a mid-sole connected to said base of said sole and including a cross sectional area upwardly slopping from said rearward most end of said sole and then downwardly slopping for

providing a relief area and then upwardly slopping to said forward most end of said sole such that when said mid-sole is compressed said cross sectional area absorbs equine impact;

a front upper connected to said mid-sole and circumscribing a forward most end and a pair of sidewalls of mid-sole for defining an opening for receiving an equine hoof into said front upper and onto said mid-sole;

said front upper extending upwardly from said mid-sole at an angle and terminating into an upper edge which angles downwardly from said forward most end to said rearward most end of said sole such that said front upper tapers from said forward most end to said rearward most end of said sole for substantially covering a forward region and regions of the equine hoof received therein;

a contoured back upper comprised of a lower section operatively coupled to said rearward most end of said sole, an upwardly extending bulb section integrally formed with said lower section and shaped to receive an equine bulb of a heel, and a pair of extensions integrally formed with said upwardly extending bulb section for wrapping around said front upper;

means for coupling said pair of extensions to said front upper such that when said equine hoof is received into said front upper and onto said mid-sole and sole and when said pair of extensions are coupled to said front upper the equine hoof is essentially surrounded and secured within the equine hoof-ware.